

**CITY OF MEMPHIS, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE**  
**MEMPHIS CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING**  
**February 21, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Lowery called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The following members of the Commission, constituting a quorum, were present: Willie Brooks, George Brown Jr., Marsha Campbell, Sylvia Cox, Myron Lowery and Sharon Webb. Janis Fullilove (Absent)

Others in attendance included: Elbert Jefferson Jr., City Attorney; Zayid Saleem, City of Memphis Assistant City Attorney; Bridgett Hand-Clay, City of Memphis, Open Records Coordinator, Professor Stephen H. Wirls, Rhodes College among others.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman Lowery noted that copies of the minutes from the Commission meeting of February 7, 2008 had been circulated prior to the meeting and asked if there were any changes or corrections. With no changes, the minutes were approved as presented.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**STAGGERED TERMS:**

Chairman Lowery called on Mr. James Johnson with the Shelby County Election Committee to comment on Staggered Terms. Mr. Johnson explained the details and deadline to place referendums on the ballot.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to discuss and vote on Staggered Terms and to deal with the details at another date. The vote was seconded by Commissioner Cox.

The Chairman called for the vote and the voting was as follows:

Myron Lowery	Aye
Willie Brooks	Aye
George Brown	Aye
Marsha Campbell	Aye
Sylvia Cox	Aye
Sharon Webb	Aye

With (5) Ayes and (0) Nays the motion to allow voters to vote on Staggered Terms for City Council members in a referendum was passed by all member present.

## **QUASI-GOVERMENTAL BOARD**

Chairman Lowery distributed to the Commissioners the letter from Councilman William Boyd dated February 8, 2008 to City Council members. He explained within the letter there is a list of Quasi-Governmental entities on which City Council members serve as voting members. He explained the purpose for them serving on those Boards is to monitor their work and report back to the entire City Council Body.

After an extensive discussion concerning Quasi-Governmental entities, Commissioner Books made to a motion to vote on establishing a Charter revision to restrict voting on quasi-governmental boards by City Council members. The vote was seconded by Commissioner Brown.

The Chairman called for the vote and the voting was as follows:

Myron Lowery	Nay
Willie Brooks,	Aye
George Brown Jr.	Aye
Marsha Campbell	Nay
Sylvia Cox	Aye
Sharon Webb	Nay

With (3) Ayes and (3) Nays the motion Failed.

## **OTHER PROPOSED CHARTER CHANGES**

Chairman Lowery called the Commissioners attention to the Master list of the proposed Charter Changes. Commissioner Brown asked the Chairman to divide the list into three groups by the next meeting and make recommendations to the Commission. Without objection, Chairman Lowery agreed.

Commissioner Campbell recommended that the Commission vote on allowing by Charter voters to vote on reinstating the Park Commission Board. Chairman Lowery stated that he will invite Ms. Cindy Buchanan, Director of Park Service to an upcoming meeting to provide some additional information on the restructuring of the Park Administration and the abolishment of the Board.

Commissioner Cox recommended that the Board consider at it next meeting the citizens request to not allow MLG&W to be sold without a referendum. In closing, Chairman Lowery stated that particular issues concerning MLG&W will be discussed and voted on as well as several other proposed Charter changes at the next Commissioners meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Lowery discussed the letter from the Office of the Attorney General dated February 13, 2008, to The Honorable G.A. Hardaway Sr. The Attorney General letter said that as long as substantive changes were not made, the clean-up work in the Charter

would not need voter approval. Chairman Lowery noted that the letter will be posted on the Charter Commission's web page. Commissioner Brown and City Attorney, Elbert Jefferson both stated that further clarification of the opinion was needed. Without objection, Chairman Lowery and Mr. Jefferson said further clarification would be sought.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on March 6, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Bridgett Handy-Clay